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I DID IT!

Straight Talk About ET



Employment and Training CHOICES
October 1, 1983 - October 1, 1986



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

STATE HOUSE • BOSTON 02133

October, 1986

Michael S. Dukakis
Governor

Dear Friend,

The women who tell their stories in this booklet are only four of the 30,000 clients who obtained full- or part-time jobs through ET CHOICES since the program began three years ago. Over 8,000 Massachusetts firms have hired ET graduates.

Their paths were varied since ET participants may choose:

- job placement through The Employment Network
- on-the-job training through Supported Work
- education and skills training
- assessment and career counseling

In addition, childcare and transportation allowances are available to all ET participants.

ET works! Of the people who go off welfare through ET, 86% are still off welfare one year later. Those who work full-time earn starting salaries that average \$12,000 a year, almost 2½ times the average welfare grant.

ET can work for you. I hope that next year when ET celebrates its fourth anniversary *you* will be one of the people to stand up and say, "I did it!"

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature of Michael S. Dukakis, written in dark ink.

Michael S. Dukakis
Governor

I DID IT!—————

—————*Straight Talk About ET*

ET (Employment and Training CHOICES)

*is different things
to different people.*

*For some
it is job placement,
for others
it is skills training.*

*For everybody,
it is the chance to get off Welfare
and into a job paying more than twice
what you get on
Welfare.*

*You may already know
something about ET.
Maybe you've seen the posters.
Perhaps you've read the brochures
describing the four parts of ET:
The Employment Network,
Supported Work,
Education and Training,
and Career Counseling.
Maybe your Caseworker
has told you
about it.*

*We thought
you might like to hear about ET
from another point of view...
from people who've been where you are now
and made the decision to change their lives.
We asked some ET participants
what they
thought about ET.
In the next few pages,
you'll hear what
they said.*





Angela White

Angela White
Dorchester
Cash Accounting Technician
John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company
Salary: \$13,250.00 annually
Children: Danelle, 1½
ET Worker: Betty Wornum
Caseworker: Shirley Story

“When I went to ET I thought my experiences were limited. They brought out things in me I didn’t know were there.

All my job experiences were in department stores as a cashier. With that I worked with money, figures, and I worked with people. I was looking for a job maybe in another department store. They showed me other avenues I could go.

They put me into a supported work job with an insurance company. I would never have gone there on my own because I never had any experience in insurance. The jobs that I did have, had something to do with what I’m doing now, but I didn’t know that. They brought this out for me.

They show you the choices you have. I never thought the job I’m in would be a choice for me. I went looking for a job and they showed me how to get a job that was a career.”



Linda Sevilla Pianka

Linda Sevilla Pianka
Chelsea
General Clerk
State Street Bank & Trust Company
Salary: \$12,335.00 annually
Children: Victor, 8
ET Worker: Marcia Kurtin
Caseworker: David Washington

“When I signed up for the ET program the first people I spoke with were offering basic factory work—what I had done all my life up until my son was born. I said, ‘No. I do not want this.’ I said I would like to go back to school.

My Worker helped me step by step. Without that help I didn’t have the confidence to do it on my own, alone. But with her help we mapped out a plan that would help me along my route. And that’s the basic thing about the program, they give you the moral support that you need.

I never thought after being out of school for 19 years that I would ever return again. I never thought I had the potential to do it. When I did go back to school it was like a whole new world opening up for me.”



Donna Zacharewicz

Donna Zacharewicz
Gardner
Quality Control Inspector
ModuForm
Salary: \$12,168.00 annually
Children: Fallon, 5
ET Worker: Lucy Puliafico
Caseworkers: Karen Wrigley and Anne Gerde

“One of the best parts of ET is the Workers. Without that boost they gave me I didn’t really want to get a job. Because what got me on Welfare in the first place was a bad job experience. It was their praise and encouragement that really got me going again. They tell you the options you have available to you then you pick what you feel would be best for you. It makes you really proud of yourself.”



Like *all* ET participants, these women are entitled to childcare services paid for by ET.

Bernadette Macedo of New Bedford is an Administrative Assistant at the Educational Opportunity Center. She had this to say about ET's childcare services:

“I would like to stress how important daycare is. Because before we can be anything else we are mothers first. In order for me to be an asset to my company, I have to know in my mind that my other responsibilities are met—being a mother, and knowing that my child is well provided for. ET makes that possible. And childcare services made ET available, gave me the opportunity to be what I am today.”

*The four women you've heard here
are only a few of the more than 30,000 people
who have changed their lives
by joining ET.*

*To find out more about what ET
can do for you,
call your local Welfare Office
and ask for your ET Worker.*

*In the words of Angela, Linda, Donna, and
Bernadette:*

**GO
FOR
IT!**



ET CHOICES is a program of Your Department of Public Welfare

Michael S. Dukakis, Governor
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Philip W. Johnston, Secretary
Executive Office of Human Services

Charles M. Atkins, Commissioner
Department of Public Welfare

